

NOTE

What is *Capsus frontifer* Walker, 1873 (Heteroptera: Miridae)?

Walker (1873. Cat. Hem. Het. Colln. Brit. Mus., 6: 94) described *Capsus frontifer* from "North America." No subsequent worker has published an association of this name with a species in our fauna. Uhler (1886. Check-list Hem. Het. N. Am., p. 21) listed *C. frontifer* under "Genera unascertained" and Van Duzee (1917. Cat. Hem. Am. N. Mex., p. 420) placed it with "Uncertain forms." Distant (1904. Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist., (7)8: 206), in studying the Walker types, stated that *C. frontifer* was not present in the British Museum and should be treated as non-existent.

While cataloging the Miridae of the United States and Canada, it came to my attention that *C. frontifer* is one of the few unrecognized mirid species in our fauna. By piecing together Walker's description, I am able to say with certainty that *C. frontifer* is the senior synonym of *Coccobaphes sanguinarius* Uhler, 1878. The original description reads as follows: "Female. Red, fusiform, shining, very finely punctured. Head triangular; middle lobe [tylus] black. Antennae black; first joint a little longer than the head, red at the base. Prothorax with a slight transverse furrow, in front of which there is a callus on each side. Legs slender. Membrane and hind wings brownish. Length of the body  $3\frac{1}{2}$  lines [approx. 6.33 mm]." Only a few North American Miridae are red. Species of *Rhinocapsus*, *Tropidosteptes cardinalis* Uhler, and others are too small and do not fit the description. Only *Coccobaphes sanguinarius* is within the size range and fits the description exactly. Also, I discovered a single female in the National Museum of Natural History from Marquette, Michigan, collected 28 Aug. 1888, with a determination label, in Uhler's hand, reading: "*Coccobaphes frontifer* Walk!" It is apparent that nearly 100 years ago Uhler discovered what I have concluded but never published his opinion. Therefore, I propose the new combination *Coccobaphes frontifer* (Walker) and with it the new synonymy of *Coccobaphes sanguinarius* Uhler, the type-species of the monotypic genus *Coccobaphes* Uhler, 1878.

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